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 RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY 9501
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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CAPTION ADDED)

ORIGINALLY PROCESSED AS CDS# 4941045
 E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: PREL, OVIP (SPECTER, ARLAN), JO, US
 SUBJECT: CODEL SPECTER'S AUDIENCE WITH KING HUSSEIN

1. S - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: KING HUSSEIN RECEIVED SENATOR ARLAN SPECTER IN A ONE-HOUR AUDIENCE AT THE PALACE ON MONDAY, AUGUST 14. THE KING EXPRESSED HIS PESSIMISM OVER CHANCES FOR PROGRESS ON THE PEACE FRONT. HIS THEME WAS THAT JORDAN REMAINS PREPARED TO ENTER PEACE TALKS WITH ISRAEL WITHOUT CONDITIONS BASED ON UNSC 242 (LAND FOR PEACE) BUT THAT WASHINGTON MUST PLAY A MORE EVEN-HANDED ROLE AS MEDIATOR IF U.S. IS TO REGAIN THE CENTRAL ROLE IN SUCH TALKS. THE KING ALSO DISCUSSED ARAFAT AND THE PLO, JORDANIAN-SYRIAN RELATIONS, THE AQABA PIPELINE (SEPTEL), AND CONGRESSIONAL EFFORTS TO MOVE THE U.S. EMBASSY TO JERUSALEM. END SUMMARY.

3. KING HUSSEIN RECEIVED SENATOR ARLAN SPECTER AND HIS COUNSEL PAUL MICHELLE IN A ONE-HOUR AUDIENCE HELD AT THE PALACE IN AMMAN AUGUST 14. THE MEETING OCCURRED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE PARTY'S ARRIVAL FROM CAIRO. ALSO ATTENDING WERE CHIEF OF ROYAL DIWAN MARWAN KASIM, COURT MINISTER ADNAN ABU ODEH AND CHARGE.

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THE PEACE PROCESS

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4. ASKED WHAT WERE HIS PRESENT VIEWS ON THE ARAB-ISRAEL PROBLEM, THE KING REPLIED THAT HE SAW LITTLE CHANCE OF PROGRESS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT IN THE NEAR TERM. IN FACT, THERE WAS A REAL QUESTION IN HIS MIND NOW WHETHER THE TIME FOR ANY SETTLEMENT HAD PAST. HE NOTED THE ISRAELI ELECTIONS AND THE MOVE TOWARD EXTREMES, THE CONTINUED SETTLEMENTS ACTIVITY IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, THE ONGOING DIVISIONS IN THE ARAB WORLD, AND U.S. FAILURE TO PLAY AN EVEN-HANDED ROLE AS ALL INHIBITING THE QUEST FOR PEACE. HE DISCUSSED THESE POINTS IN GENERALLY FAMILIAR TERMS.

U.S.-JORDANIAN RELATIONS

5. THE SENATOR ASKED IF THE KING VIEWED PRESIDENT REAGAN'S 1982 M.E. PEACE INITIATIVE AS EVEN-HANDED. THE KING JUMPED IMMEDIATELY TO POINT OUT THAT JORDAN HAD ACCEPTED THE REAGAN PLAN EVEN WHEN MANY OTHERS IN THE AREA INCLUDING ISRAEL HAD REJECTED IT. THERE WERE SOME AREAS THAT NEEDED CLARIFICATION, BUT OVER ALL IT WAS A COURAGEOUS STEP BY THE PRESIDENT. THE KING SAID HE WORKED HARD TO GET OTHER ARAB STATES TO ACCEPT IT. HE POINTEDLY EMPHASIZED A SECOND TIME THAT EVEN AMERICA'S FRIENDS, THE ISRAELIS, HAD REJECTED IT; BUT JORDAN HAD AGREED.

6. THE KING THEN CITED AN EXAMPLE OF LACK OF EVEN HANDEDNESS: WHEN IN WASHINGTON IN FEBRUARY HE HAD BROUGHT A DRAFT UNSC RESOLUTION ON SETTLEMENTS. IT WAS "SHOT DOWN" BY WASHINGTON. IN FACT, HE SAID, HE GOT NEGATIVE REPLIES ON SEVERAL ISSUES ON THE SAME DAY. IN A SORT OF COUP DE GRAS THE KING SAID HE REALLY COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WASHINGTON ANYMORE. HE HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT REAGAN SAYING HOW PLEASED HE WAS WITH THE KING'S GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE AMBASSADOR. SHORTLY THEREAFTER HE LEARNED THE AMBASSADOR WAS BEING REMOVED.
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THE ROLE OF ARAFAT AND THE PLO

7. SENATOR SPECTER ASKED ABOUT ARAFAT'S ROLE. HUSSEIN SAID ARAFAT HAD DEFINITELY BEEN WEAKENED BY THE SPLIT IN THE PLO BUT THAT NO OTHER SPOKESMAN HAD COME FORWARD. THE WEST BANKERS, HE SAID, WERE THE ONES WHO HAD TO BE INVOLVED. AT ANOTHER POINT THE KING DISMISSED ARAFAT WITH A WAVE OF THE HAND SAYING THAT HE (THE KING) ALWAYS ADDRESSED HIS ***** MESSAGE SECTION 2 NOT IN DAQ *****
***** MESSAGE SECTION 3 NOT IN DAQ *****
END OF MESSAGE

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